

**Questions and Answers on U.S. Embassy Nassau
Ambassador's Fund for Refugees Grant 2008**

A. What is the goal of the Ambassadors' Fund?

The Ambassadors' Fund is intended to meet gaps in ongoing refugee programs that can be addressed locally for under \$20,000 and are not already being addressed by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), other international organizations, or non-governmental organizations that are already receiving U.S. Government funding.

B. What is an appropriate use?

The Fund is intended primarily for refugees or other populations of concern, such as vulnerable migrants and stateless persons. We would also consider support for projects that benefit both beneficiaries and their host communities. We cannot provide direct support to governments but would welcome applications from local NGOs and government agencies which provide assistance programs to refugees, vulnerable migrants, and stateless persons.

C. How much money is available in the Fund and how much can any one grantee receive?

The Embassy limits grants to a maximum of one request for up to \$20,000 per year (though proposals may include two separate smaller projects).

D. Is there a deadline for submitting proposals?

YES! Applications must be submitted to the Embassy *no later than* March 30, 2008, but proposals will be accepted beginning immediately.

E. What are the application instructions and criteria that proposals need to meet?

Please see the attached sheet regarding application instructions.

F. Are there any additional requirements?

Yes, each project proposal, before receiving funding, must include a signed "Code of Conduct on Sexual Exploitation" as part of the U.S. Government's efforts to prevent further abuse of vulnerable women and children in all refugee and humanitarian operations.

The UN Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) adopted a plan of action for the prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation developed by a special task force, co-chaired by UNICEF and OCHA, and including international organizations and non-governmental organizations. The Plan of Action calls for common elements of codes of conduct for humanitarian workers and

Questions and Answers on U.S. Embassy Nassau
Ambassador's Fund for Refugees Grant 2008

measures to protect aid beneficiaries from exploitation and to strengthen the accountability and the integrity of humanitarian aid.

All U.S. Embassy Nassau Ambassador's Fund grantees *must* provide a copy of their codes of conduct prior to the Embassy making any funding decisions. Each grantee's code of conduct must be consistent with the six core principles from the IASC recommendations. The six core principles are as follows:

- 1) Sexual exploitation and abuse by humanitarian workers constitute acts of gross misconduct and are therefore grounds for termination of employment.
- 2) Sexual activity with children (persons under the age of 18) is prohibited regardless of the age of majority or age of consent locally. Mistaken belief in the age of a child is not a defense.
- 3) Exchange of money, employment, goods, or services for sex, including sexual favors or other forms of humiliating, degrading or exploitative behavior is prohibited. This includes exchange of assistance that is due to beneficiaries.
- 4) Sexual relationships between humanitarian workers and beneficiaries are strongly discouraged since they are based on inherently unequal power dynamics. Such relationships undermine the credibility and integrity of humanitarian work.
- 5) Where a humanitarian worker develops concerns or suspicions regarding sexual abuse or exploitation by a fellow worker, whether in the same agency or not, s/he must report such concerns via established agency reporting mechanisms.
- 6) Humanitarian workers are obliged to create and maintain an environment, which prevents sexual exploitation and abuse and promotes the implementation of their code of conduct. Managers at all levels have particular responsibilities to support and develop systems that maintain this environment.

The Embassy is happy to provide interested, qualified organizations with examples of approved codes of conduct, if needed.

For further information or to submit an application, please contact Paul Jukic in the Political/Economic Section via e-mail at GrantNassau@state.gov . *All proposals **MUST** be submitted electronically, though they may also be submitted in hardcopy.*

REMINDER: Applications must be submitted to the Embassy *no later than March 30, 2008*, but proposals will be accepted beginning immediately. Please see attached application instructions for further details.